

Questionnaire on the Term “Quality of Patents” and Cooperation between Patent Offices in Search and Examination

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The answers to this questionnaire have been provided on behalf of:

Country: The Gambia.....

Office: Registrar General's Office (Ministry of Justice)

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Q1. Various aspects may be relevant to the concept of “quality of patents”. It may relate to, for example, quality of patent procedures and management in the office, quality of search and examination, quality of granted patents or quality of a patent system. In addition, the expression “quality of patents” may be understood differently depending on the perspectives of various stakeholders, for example, the perspectives of a patent office, an applicant etc.

How does your office understand the term “quality of patents”?

The efficiency of the pre-grant system and the status of the patent after grant

Q2. What types of cooperation with other patent offices does your office have with respect to search and examination?

By virtue of our membership the office refer patent applications to ARIPO for examination

Those types of cooperation may include, for example, access to documents/databases of other offices, use of search and examination work products, expertise and resources available in other offices, collaborative search and examination, outsourcing search and examination etc.

We only make use of the expertise available at ARIPO for patent examination

Q3. When performing prior art search, patent examiners prepare search strategies and queries (for example, indications of databases and publications, classification codes, search terms and key words used) to find relevant prior art.

Does your office share (for example, via an official website), or exchange, such search strategies and queries with other collaborating offices?

No

Q4. In order to facilitate the cooperation, what kinds of platforms and tools to share information on search and examination are available in your office? Such platforms and tools include, for example, WIPO CASE, databases allowing other offices to retrieve information and external databases used to retrieve information.

- (i) Platforms and tools provided by your office
- (ii) Platforms and tools used by your office

Only transmission of patent applications to ARIPO through courier services

Q5. What are the impacts of such cooperation in the area of search and examination to your office? If your office has different types of cooperation and each type of cooperation has different impacts, please indicate them separately.

The cooperation merely helps the office in determining whether or not to grant a patent

Q6. What kinds of capacity building are required for different types of cooperation between patent offices in search and examination? Please indicate any specific capacity building needs to conduct such cooperation successfully.

Training of trainers in search and examination. Also short term courses

In this context, the capacity building is understood to refer to various activities and trainings that support development of knowledge and skills of office employees for effective cooperation between offices in search and examination.

Yes

[End of Questionnaire]